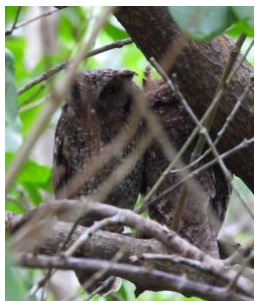


# Trinidad & Tobago: Incredible Birds and Wildlife

## June 14-24, 2023 | Trip Report | by Rick Weiman



With host Rick Weiman, local guides Lester Nanan, Dave Ramlal, Mukesh Ramdass and Jason Radix, and participants Chuck, Ruth, Amy, Aubrey, Roger, Donna, Rita, Paul and Mary.



### Tues., Jun. 13

### Early Arrivals Pax Guest House

The Pax Guest House is located high in the hills overlooking Port of Spain and provides great views, food and, of course, birds. Ruth and Chuck arrived a few days early and Rick showed up around dinner time at the Pax guest house. Rita, Aubrey and Amy arrived in the evening on June 13. Hosts Gerard and Oda were delightful as was the food. During our stay there, the porch feeders gave us great views of many hummingbirds including Copper-rumped, Ruby-Topaz, Black-throated Mango, White-necked Jacobin, Blue-chinned Sapphire and Long-billed Starthroat. Our walks around the roads and the nearby monastery featured nice looks at soaring Zone-tailed and Gray-lined Hawks, a Yellow-headed Caracara and our first of many Orange-winged Parrots.



## **Wed., Jun. 14                      Hacienda Jacana**

We did some morning birding on the grounds at Pax where two Tufted Coquettes were found while local guide Dave Ramlal picked up the rest of the group after lunch. We were now headed to Hacienda Jacana, our home for the next three days. Guests were dropped off at their individual cabins and once everyone was settled, we had a very productive afternoon bird walk on the grounds, with 35 species recorded in under two hours. Some of the highlights were Green-backed and Guianan Trogons, a pair of Crimson-crested Woodpeckers, several Wattled Jacanas on the pond, a family of Purple Gallinules sharing a frog, Black-crested and Barred Antshrikes and a nice view of a Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl that answered Dave's call.

Roger, Donna, Paul and Mary arrived just before dinner and were welcomed by an upset momma Southern Lapwing as we walked too close to its nest just as a group of Smooth-billed Anis flew in. Lester Nanan, our Trinidad host, arrived with a delicious home cooked dinner, and we ate in the outdoor gazebo by candlelight as there was a brief power outage that night.

We learned that Lester has a deep passion for Trinidad and Tobago's bird life, and that he is the CEO of Nanan's Caroni Bird Sanctuary Tours, his family business, and chair of the Nanan family's Scientific Trust. Lester comes from a family of conservationists who started their movement in 1930 when his grandfather, Oudit Nanan, petitioned the government to save the Scarlet Ibis that were being hunted in the Caroni Swamp for their feathers and meat. The area became a protected National Park in 1948 and is named for his father, Winston Nanan. Lester carries on this important family legacy and is highly regarded for his work developing sustainable ecotourism in Trinidad. In 2018, he worked with the Environmental Management Authority to draft policies that resulted in the Scarlet Ibis becoming an environmentally sensitive species. He continues working to make the Caroni Bird Sanctuary an environmentally sensitive area so that every species that visits the swamp is protected, and he is an integral partner with Naturalist Journeys and our Trinidad tours.

## **Thurs., Jun. 15                      Hacienda Jacana | Agricultural Fields | Manzanilla Beach & the Atlantic Coast | Nariva Swamp**

Some of the group met at 6:30 a.m. for some pre-breakfast birding around the gazebo. A large row of vervain was active with a variety of hummingbirds: Ruby Topaz, Black-throated Mango and both Copper-rumped and Tufted Coquettes were busy feeding. Mary found a baby green iguana in the vervain that quickly disappeared thanks to its excellent camouflage. Other birds spotted were Palm, Blue-gray and Silver-beaked Tanagers; several Striated Herons; Cocoa and Spectacled Thrushes and Crested Oropendolas to name just a few. Old





friends Rick, Paul and Mary were staying at the guest cottage at the top of the hill and had a pair of Red-bellied Macaws (who nest in a dead palm tree on the property) fly in for a visit as they walked down the trail. We had a delicious breakfast with fried plantain, curried same, pacho, sada roti and fresh fruit. A special guest then showed up, Martyn Kenefick, author of *"The Birds of Trinidad and Tobago,"* and we were thrilled that he would spend the day birding with us. We loaded up the bus and headed to the Aripo Agricultural Research Station where we made several stops. At the first stop in Aripo, a Pearl Kite flew in, then circled back and perched on a wire, giving us some nice views. We watched as a kettle of 100+ Black Vultures formed and then three Green-rumped Parrotlets flew in and perched on a fence. Other new birds were Lineated Woodpecker, Cattle and Great Egrets, Red-breasted Meadowlarks, Yellow-hooded Blackbirds, Yellow Oriole and Pied Water-Tyrant. In all 21 species were recorded.

It was then on to Manzanilla Beach for our lunch stop, which was another homemade meal provided by a local family. While waiting for lunch to arrive, we enjoyed the beach view and several Magnificent Frigatebirds gliding by. After a lunch of rice and beef palau with salad and fresh watermelon, we continued south along the Atlantic Coast towards Nariva Swamp. As we birded from the bus, a large bird landed on a wire and Marty quickly called out, "Snail Kite!" It was a subadult and, per Marty, one of only three or four records on the island that year. Rick was able to get a good picture and add it to eBird. Other birds seen as we drove were several Savannah Hawks, a Short-tailed Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, flocks of Gray-breasted Martins and a Ringed Kingfisher that perched nicely for us.

We stopped near some red mangroves in the swamp and had good looks at Common Black Hawk, Silvered Antbird, Black-crested Antshrike and Bicolored Conebills. At the river mouth area where the Nariva River empties into the Atlantic Ocean, there were a pair of Collared Plovers, our first Neotropic Cormorants, six Black Skimmers, many Snowy and Great Egrets, a hunting Osprey and several Yellow-headed Caracaras. We then drove along the roads in the Nariva Swamp in an area known for melon farming and spotted several Limpkins, Blue-black Grassquits, a flock of Carib Grackles and Yellow-hooded Blackbirds, three White-headed Marsh Tyrants, two Long-winged Harriers and a somewhat lost Yellow-billed Tern, identified by Marty of course. In all we had 31 species just along this melon patch route. Then it was back to the Hacienda for a cold beer and a dip



in the pool followed by another delicious home cooked meal provided by Lester, this time under the now working gazebo fans and lights.

## **Fri., Jun. 16                      Hacienda Jacana | Coastal Birding | Orange Valley | Night Birding**

Another early start with a 6:30 breakfast so that we could bird on the west coast. Before, during and after breakfast, Rick and Dave located some good birds at Hacienda Jacana. There were more good looks at Smooth-billed Ani, Tufted Coquette, Purple Gallinule, our first Channel-billed Toucan, several Yellow-rumped Caciques and a trilling Long-billed Gnatwren. During the drive, Dave noticed the head of a bird skulking in the marsh grass. As we stopped and scanned from the bus, it turned out to be a Pinnated Bittern, our only sighting of this highly secretive species. Our first destination on the west coast was Orange Valley and its brackish mudflats. Here there is an old pier lined by wooden fishing boats that was loaded with 100+ perched Brown Pelicans and many Neotropic Cormorants. The mudflats, although quite odiferous, were full of dozens of Great and Snowy Egrets; Tricolored and Little Blue Herons, Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, several American Flamingoes and a half-dozen Scarlet Ibis, some still molting into adult plumage. We also saw a Large-billed Tern hunting, a lone Whimbrel and a Short-tailed Hawk among our 25 species there.

Our next stop was at the Temple In The Sea. This beautiful Hindu Temple was originally built on a man-made pier in the early 1950's, but it fell into disrepair and was rebuilt in 1995. Several old wooden boats and many prayer flags were along the shoreline near the temple. There were birds there as well including a Black-crowned Night-Heron perched on a boat, a flock of Semipalmated Sandpipers and more Magnificent Frigatebirds and Brown Pelicans. While walking through the small park along the water's edge, we found Saffron Finches, a Yellow Oriole, Carib Grackles, a Great Kiskadee and a Spectacled Thrush.

Back at Hacienda Jacana, we had a nice lunch and then were free to explore the grounds or rest. A few of us headed back to the small but refreshing pool where we rescued a worm-sized Three-lined Ground Snake stuck in the pool, placing it on a nearby heliconia to recover. In the late afternoon we headed out to Waller Field, an abandoned World War II U.S. airfield, for some night birding. Here the overgrown roads and runways provide habitat for many species of birds. Dinner was served on a table right there in the road, with forest on either side of us, and we enjoyed another fine local meal supplied by Lester. As we dined, we heard the calls of Mottled





Owls, so of course we tried to call them in, eventually succeeding in getting quick looks at them as they flew over the road. Before the sun set, we also had a flock of Orange-winged Parrots, White-collared and Fork-tailed

Palm Swifts, and several Sulphury Flycatchers. Once it was dark enough, we headed off on the bus to look for our target birds, the nightjars. Scanning for eye-shine with our spotlights, we ended up finding two perched Common Potoos, at least seven White-tailed Nightjars and several Common Pauraque. Most looks were in flight as they flushed the approaching bus, but we had very close binocular and scope views of the Common Potoos.

## **Sat., Jun. 17                      Hacienda Jacana | The Northern Range | Asa Wright Nature Center**

Today was a travel day, heading up the Arima Valley to the Asa Wright Nature Center. We said goodbye to our new friends at the lovely Hacienda Jacana, bought some of their home-made honey and drove to the newly renovated Asa Wright Nature Center. Upon arrival the entire staff was in the welcome area to greet us with refreshing cold drinks and yes, some early morning rum punch. Hey, it's got to be 5:00 somewhere! We had time to move into our rooms and visit the famous veranda before heading out for a very busy day of birding on the local roads. Just before we left, a beautiful male Tufted Coquette was spotted on the vervain flowers near the welcome area.

We birded Las Lapas Trace, Morne Bleu and Lalaja Road, and had many wonderful sightings throughout the day such as Blue Dacnis, Variegated Flycatcher, Violaceous Euphonia, Long-billed Starthroat, a calling and soaring Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Collared Trogon and Golden-olive Woodpecker. We stopped at Brasso Seco visitor's center for lunch. Brasso Seco is a town that formed a cocoa farming cooperative. After a delicious, locally prepared lunch, we received a demonstration of how the harvested cocoa is processed into chocolate. Samples were provided and many chocolate bars and bags of powdered cocoa were purchased. On our way back to Asa Wright, we made stops along the Blanchisseuse Road, adding Collared Trogon, Plain-brown Woodcreeper, Euler's Flycatcher, Golden-crowned Warbler and Red-crowned Ant Tanager. Our final stop produced a Gray-throated Leaf-tosser that was more heard than seen, a Rufous-breasted Wren and a Slaty-capped Flycatcher among others. We enjoyed a lovely buffet dinner in the refurbished dining room at Asa Wright and then a few of us still had the energy to go out on a night walk with one of the center's guides. We saw a few different tree frog



species and geckos, many different insects including a tarantula and a whip scorpion, and a large Cane Toad. A Mottled Owl called but remained out of sight.

**Sun., Jun. 18**

### **Asa Wright | Yerette Hummingbirds | Caroni National Park and Scarlet Ibis**

Most of our group rose early, excited to bird the Asa Wright veranda. We decided to get our plates and coffee from the breakfast buffet and eat them on the veranda, a practice we would follow the rest of our stay there. Our time on the veranda was productive as we quickly had 14 species of birds including Turquoise, Blue-gray, Palm and White-lined Tanagers; a Collared Trogon and five species of hummingbirds. Then it was time to leave for the busy day ahead and our morning visit to Yerette, home of the Hummingbird. Our guide today was Lester Nanan because later in the day we'd be heading to Caroni Swamp. Before getting to Yerette, we stopped at a pond on the Trin City Golf Course where in less than a half hour we counted 23 species of birds. Some highlights were Lineated Woodpecker, a pair of Yellow-chinned Spinetails, two White-headed Marsh Tyrants, Pied Water-Tyrant and several Saffron Finches.

Arriving at Yerette, we met the owner, author and photographer Theo Ferguson and his wife Gloria. In their backyard is a patio with chairs and tables, surrounded by dozens of hummingbird feeders and a lovely garden with many native flowers, and of course hummingbirds. Theo gave us a talk on the biology of hummingbirds and their distribution that was followed by lunch prepared by his wife that we ate in the backyard with hummingbirds swarming all around us. We saw at least six species of hummingbirds including Black-throated Mango, Ruby-topaz, White-chested Emerald and Blue-chinned Sapphire. Theo mentioned it was possible to see 14 species on his property, but we were just there on a slightly slow day and only for a short period of time. The garden also produced an Olive-gray Saltator and a Barred Antshrike. A few of us purchased some of his stunning hummingbird photos.

Our next stop was the Caroni National Wildlife Refuge. We drove down the road paralleling the canal and took a short walk where Lester spotted a pair of Tropical Screech-Owls huddled together in the mangroves. We also had our first looks at Green-throated Mango and Rufous-browed Peppershrike. With Lester as our captain, it was time for our boat tour of the swamp. Moving slowly down the canal, shaded by the mangroves, Lester's





amazing eyes spotted an American Pygmy Kingfisher that some of us were able to snap a few pictures of. He also showed us a Cook's tree boa coiled on a branch and the diminutive silky anteater, rolled into a little fuzzy ball for its daytime nap. A pair of Greater Ani's fighting over a meal got us all excited and then it was into the heart of the swamp where in the open lake area we tied up the boat across from the island where the Scarlet Ibises roost for the night. We witnessed at least a hundred American Flamingoes feeding in the shallow water near the island. Tricolored Herons and Snowy Egrets flew into the roost along with at least 50 Scarlet Ibis. We enjoyed some rum punch and cold beer as we watched the trees fill with brilliant color as the sun started to set. It was tough to leave this beautiful setting, but we had a long drive back to Asa Wright.

## Mon., June 19

## Asa Wright Nature Center Trails & Oilbird Cave

Today our plan was to spend the entire day at Asa Wright. We started, as usual, with breakfast and birding on the veranda, and those early arrivers were lucky enough to see Squirrel Cuckoo, Common Black Hawk, Guianan Trogon and a pair of Channel-billed Toucans, as well as the many tanagers and hummingbirds we had been observing daily that most of the group could now identify. After breakfast, our local guide, Mukesh, led us down the main trail. Soon we had a perched and calling Bearded Bellbird right over our heads, followed by a second in the forest to our left. Such a unique (and loud!) call that we had been hearing daily, but so close! We stopped at the White-bearded Manakin Lek sign where it was apparent the birds could read because in no time, we got amazing looks at several displaying male s who obligingly posed for photos. We added White-flanked Antwren, Cocoa Woodcreeper, Pale-breasted Spinetail and Green-backed Trogon to our list before heading back up the trail for lunch.

That afternoon we experienced a much more challenging hike down to the Oilbird caves. Oilbirds are the world's only nocturnal fruit-eating birds, and Asa Wright has a large colony of them roosting in caves. The trail is steep and winds through lush, tropical forest. We saw and heard bellbirds and manakins again on the way down and noted a well-camouflaged Boa Constrictor on the trail along with leafcutter and army ants, that we did our best to avoid. We crossed a stream then descended some stone steps that brought us to the mouth of the cave. Rick and Mukesh located some perched Oilbirds and set up the scope so everyone could take turns entering the cave as Mukesh shone a light on the perched birds. After everyone had seen and photographed the birds, we slowly made our way back up the hill to the lodge. On the way, we saw a Streaked Flycatcher and both Trinidad and



Violaceous Euphonias. In the garden area, Rick and Paul had great looks at several large golden tegu lizards that live on the property and forage under the fruit feeders. Then it was time for a shower and an afternoon siesta, or more birding on the veranda, before another delicious dinner.

**Tues., Jun. 20**

### **Asa Wright | Aripo Savannah | El Suzanne | Grand Riviere**

After our final breakfast at Asa Wright, and more morning veranda birding, we loaded up the bus for our long ride to Grand Riviere. Luckily, we had several stops planned to break up the drive with the first stop in the Aripo Savannah. We stopped the bus on Cumoto Road where our roadside birding was rewarded with several new species such as two perched Bat Falcons and a mixed flock with our first Golden-headed Manakin, Golden-fronted Greenlet, Bananaquit and Ochre-lored, Streaked, Piratic and Boat-billed Flycatchers along with many tanagers. Just up the hill was El Suzanne where we had a delicious, early lunch alongside a female Tufted Coquette and several other hummingbirds feeding on the vervain flowers near the patio. The owner, Dianne, greeted us and shared the history of her beautiful home and her decision to create a small ecolodge named after her daughter.

Shortly after we left El Suzanne, our bus driver, Paul, slammed on the brakes to avoid running over a large snake. Client Paul Kelly, our resident herpetologist, and Rick quickly determined it was non-venomous, and Paul grabbed it for some pictures. We later identified it as a yellow-bellied puffing snake. Paul safely released it out of harm's way, and we thanked our driver for his quick reactions. As we got back on the bus, Aubrey, not a big fan of snakes, shook his head and exclaimed, "You people are all crazy!" Just before we departed, three Plumbeous Kites flew in and perched nearby, so of course we all got off the bus to observe them.

We arrived at Grand Riviere mid-afternoon and checked into the Hotel Amandier. After everyone got settled, we headed out to bird on Monte Video Road. Our target bird for this area was the endemic Trinidad Piping-Guan. As the bus parked, an adult male guan flew across the road right in front of the bus followed by two young birds. The adult perched in a tree for us all to observe, about as close as you can get to one. Afterwards Dave deadpanned, "Nice job, now what?" We decided to walk up the road and found a nice mix of birds, 25 species in total, including at least 10 Crested Oropendolas, our first White-shouldered Tanager, Red-legged and Green Honeycreepers, and a striking male Blue Dacnis. The other reason our tours visit Grand Riviere is to view the





leatherback sea turtles who return to the beach to lay eggs. It's one of the highest concentrations leatherbacks in the world. We were there at the very end of the nesting season, but in time to witness some of the first hatchlings emerge. Along the beach we noticed many Magnificent Frigatebirds and Black Vultures circling, they too were searching for nestlings. Soon we located hatching turtles and got to work gathering up as many of the

hatchlings as we could in a Naturalist Journeys cloth bag that Rick had brought before the birds could swoop in. The birds departed as the sun was setting, and we watched the released hatchlings make their way to the sea, safe from aerial predators. We ate dinner outdoors at the hotel and then celebrated Rick's birthday with a round of drinks and some chocolate cake before returning to the beach for a night walk with a local guide. Before long we found a female digging her nest and observed the entire process of egg laying (about 80-100) and nest burying, which took a little over an hour. She then forced her immense body down the sand and back into the sea. We were told she'd repeat this process several more times in the next few weeks and felt very lucky to have witnessed it.

### **Wed., Jun. 21                      Hotel Amandier | Tobago | Bon Accord Sewage Ponds | Centre Street Ponds | Cuffie River Nature Retreat**

It rained overnight, but as the sun rose the rain cleared, and a few of us got up early to see if any female sea turtles were still on the beach. We were lucky to find two more at the end of their nesting process and watched them amble back to the sea, exhausted. Dave heard a Gray-cowled Wood-Rail calling behind the hotel (we thought it was a car alarm) and some of the group went with him and got good looks at it. After breakfast we checked out of the hotel and made the two-hour drive to the airport for our flight to Tobago. We said goodbye to Dave and our driver Paul and thanked them for their wonderful service. After the 30-minute flight, we were met by our new local guide, Jason Radix. On our way to the hotel, we stopped at the Bon Accord Sewage Treatment Ponds and the Centre Street Ponds. The ponds at Bon Accord were quite productive, with 28 species observed. New on our list were Black-bellied Whistling Duck, White-cheeked Pintail, Least Grebe, Caribbean Martin and Semipalmated Plover. At the nearby Centre Street Ponds was a Tobago rarity, a female Lesser Scaup, along with an amazing number of Least Grebes (40+) and at least a dozen Black-crowned Night-Herons and Common Gallinules. We arrived at the Cuffie River Nature Retreat and met the friendly owner, Regina. We had some time to unpack and enjoy the grounds there before enjoying a family-style dinner.

### **Thurs., Jun. 22                      Cuffie River Nature Retreat**

Before our first breakfast at Cuffie, a few of us walked the grounds or watched the hummingbirds at the feeders. In under an hour, we had 20 species of birds, several of them new for the trip including White-tailed Sabrewing



and Rufous-breasted Hermit at the feeders. We heard Rufous-vented Chachalacas calling, and a flock of Orange-winged Parrots flew overhead. By the river below the lodge, an immature Little Blue Heron was feeding near a perched Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. The local guide and caretaker, Desmond, showed us where a White-tailed Nightjar was roosting in some nearby bushes, and it remained in that spot every day we were there, allowing us to admire and photograph it.

After breakfast we went for a walk with Desmond on the trails near the lodge and were rewarded with some new birds like Fuscous and Brown-crested Flycatchers, Chivi Vireo and Scrub Greenlet. We spotted at least six Rufous-tailed Jacamars and two Trinidad Motmots on the walk, apparently much easier to see on Tobago than Trinidad. Rick saw a large, dark raptor fly in and perch in the valley, a Great Black Hawk that provided excellent scope views. We found several large land crabs on the road that with a little research turned out to be Manicou land crabs. Manicou is the Amerindian name for opossum, and the female crabs carry their fertilized eggs in a pouch-like structure on the bottom of their shells, which then hatch on her body. Therefore, unlike most land crabs, they don't need to return to the sea to breed, and as Roger highlighted, we were witnessing the pinnacle of crab evolution here.

After lunch, Jason picked us up in the bus and we drove to Adventure Park. This private nature preserve had a row of chairs very close to fruit and nectar feeders providing wonderful views of the local birds. On the trails we found several Red-crowned Woodpeckers, Shiny Cowbirds, Ochre-bellied Flycatcher, Spectacled Thrush, and several others. Our next stop was Fort James, an 18th century fort overlooking Courland Bay. Out in the bay below us was a long dock with resting Laughing Gulls, Roseate Terns and Brown Pelicans. Two Brown Noddies flew by as we scanned the dock. We noticed a medium-sized tern with a yellow bill that had us perplexed. After speaking with Marty Kenefick, we deduced it to be a Cayenne subspecies Sandwich Tern. It's good to have friends in high places. We then returned to Cuffie River for some pool time and cocktails followed by a review of our growing species checklist and another delicious dinner.

**Fri., Jun. 23**

## **Cuffie River Retreat | Main Ridge Forest Reserve | Little Tobago Island**

It was our last full day of the tour and after breakfast we departed with Jason for a drive along the Caribbean coast on our way to the Main Ridge Forest Preserve. Our first stop was a quick scenic overlook at Castara Bay. It





was a beautiful view with a few seabirds spotted though nothing new. Our first heavy rainfall of the tour then started, so instead of hiking, we stopped at the Bloody Bay Visitor Center and overlook. Legend has it that the bay was the site of a bloody battle between French and British forces in the late 18th century. The battle was said to have been so fierce that the waters of the bay turned red with blood, hence the name "Bloody Bay." There was a nice 3D topography map of Tobago's Main Ridge. We stayed dry birding from the porch, but the pickings were slim. We did add a new bird to the list, a White-necked Thrush that was foraging near the forest edge, as well as White-tipped Dove. The rain let up, so around 11:15 a.m. we headed to Giplin Trace in the Main Ridge Forest Reserve for a hike through the rainforest where we found several good birds including Rufous-breasted Hermit, several Golden-olive Woodpeckers, a Stripe-breasted Spinetail, more jacamars and motmots. Our target here was Blue-backed Manakin and we saw at least five.

Then it was on to the town of Speyside on the Caribbean Coast for an outdoor lunch at The Birdwatcher's Restaurant. After lunch we made the short drive to the Blue Waters Inn where we met Zolani, or "Z," who guided our glass bottom boat trip to Little Tobago Island. Along the way, Z gave a history of Little Tobago and how it came to be a preserve. As we approached the island, we could see Brown Boobies perched on the rocks and Brown Noddies and Roseate Terns in flight. We hiked up the trail to the overlook on the north side of the island and found more Brown Boobies along with Red-footed Boobies perched or flying. We saw just two Red-billed Tropicbirds as the nesting season was nearly over, but we did find one nest with a chick. A few Sooty Terns and Magnificent Frigatebirds were also present along with seven or more Scaly-naped Pigeons. In all we had 21 species on the crossing and on the island. As we walked from the boat to the bus at Blue Waters, we noticed a lone Ruddy Turnstone on the beach, our only one of the tour.

Back at the Cuffe River Lodge, we had a terrific farewell dinner with some remembrances of the trip. As we did our final species list, Rick asked everyone for their favorite bird of the trip and, as it happened, everyone had a different choice. Ruby-topaz Hummingbird, Pygmy Kingfisher, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Tufted Coquette and Bat Falcon were some of the winners. Of course, witnessing the leatherback sea turtles on the beach at Grand Riviere, both hatchlings and nesting females, was a major highlight for all.

## Sat., Jun. 24

## Cuffe River Lodge & Departures

After breakfast and saying goodbye to Rita, who had an earlier flight, we had time for a short hike before most of us had to depart. We had caught a flash of a Green Kingfisher near the river on our hike with Desmond, so we

tried our best to relocate it. Rick saw it fly close to the lodge and Aubrey was able to snap a few pictures before it flew off. The final bird of the tour (# 202) was indeed a good one! Aubrey and Amy and Roger and Ruth were leaving later, so Paul, Mary, Rick, Roger and Donna said their goodbyes as we headed to the airport with Jason for our flight back to Trinidad and then home. Many fond memories and new friends were made!

Photo Credits: Group Photo (Rick Weiman- RW), Collared Trogon (Aubrey Nolan - AN), Baby Leatherback Turtle (RW), Blue-chinned Sapphire (RW), Scarlet Ibis (RW), Trinidad Piping-guan (AN), Group Birding (Rita St. Clair - RSC), White-necked Jacobin (RW), Tall Palms (PK), Common Potoo (AN), Three-lined Ground Snake (RW), Black-crowned Night Heron (RW), Detailed Buildings (Ruth Anderson - RA), Resting by the water (Charles Anderson), Ruby Topaz Hummingbird (AN), Asa Wright (RSC), Ruth & Chuck (RW), Silver-beaked Tanager (AN), American Pygmy Kingfisher (AN), American Flamingoes (AN), Bearded Bellbird (AN), White-bearded Manakin (AN), Tegu Lizard (RW), Red-legged Honeycreeper (RW), White-necked Jacobin (AN), Barred Antshrike (RW), Rufous-breasted Wren (AN), Paul Kelly (RW), Least Grebe (AN), Leatherback Turtle (RW), Trinidad Motmot (AN), Juvenile Little Blue Heron (AN), Jacamar Pair (RW), Manicou Mountain Land Crab (AN), Blue-gray Tanager (RW), Group at the Kapok tree (RW), Brown Noddy (AN), Black-throated Mango (RW), Brown Booby (AN)